1:Vaillant A-5 (1928-1936)1941 NU7 Aztec NU7

321 Mosaic workers utilized stones of different colors and
324 shells of various kinds. Pure designs were common, but ele-
531 ments representing the costume or the body paint were
341 shown when the mosaic covered a figure in wood or stone. An application of mosaic on a larger scale was frequent in architecture, a veneer of cut stone being applied to the rubble of a platform or building. The temples of Mitla, Oaxaca, influenced by the same Mixteca-Puebla culture to which Aztec civilization owed its origin, are masterpieces of this technique, for individual blocks have their surfaces carved to fit together in an intricate geometric design.[9] (See Plate 11, bottom.)

322 The woodworkers, owing to the impermanence of their medium, have left little to exhibit their prowess, but the few surviving masks, idols, drums and *atl-atls*, or throwing boards, bear ample witness to their superb craftsmanship. The very fact that they had to work wood with stone tools makes their achievement noteworthy. Their copper tools were dull and unserviceable in cutting even the softer woods, and these implements came into use relatively late in Aztec times.[10] (See Plate 54, bottom.)

335 Wood was used extensively in buildings for roof beams and doorjambs. A beam in the palace at Texcoco was ninety feet long and five feet thick, so that its preparation and transport must have been an arduous task. There was probably little use of planks in Aztec building, since it would be difficult to prepare them with the rudimentary equipment at Aztec disposal, and adobes and plaster were easier to make and just
396 as serviceable. Wooden canoes, however, were essential for life in the lakes. Some were dugouts hollowed out by fire, but others, to judge from the type used by the Xochimilcan

1:Vaillant A-5 (1928-1936)1941 NU7 Aztec NU7

396 Indians today, were flat-bottomed punts, constructed of planks which were probably tied together in Aztec times
335 rather than pegged, as they are today. The portable bridges used to cross the canals were also simple combinations of planks, or planks resting on beams. (See Plate 35, bottom left.)

352 Furniture, which in European culture has done much honor to the woodworker, was little used in Mexico. Mats sufficed for beds and seats. High dignitaries sat on a sort of wooden throne which had legs and often a back and was called *icpalli*, from which the Mexican word *equipale* for a modern wickerwork and leather chair is derived. Mention
[353] is made of screens and chests and ornamental sheathing for room interiors, but no examples are left for us to judge their craftsmanship. (See Plate 37, top.)

534 The wooden drums, on which musicians beat out ceremonial rhythms, were handsomely carved, as befitted their religious use. There were two types, a vertically cylindrical drum (*huehuetl**), which had a skin head, and a horizontally cylindrical drum (*teponaztli*†), the top of which was slotted to form two tongues. While the notes differed, there was usually the same interval between the resonant sounds emitted when the tongues were struck. The task of reaching the pitch must have been excessively difficult, for the wood had to be hollowed by fire and then chiseled to a nicety. At times the artist fashioned these drums to represent a crouching
320 man or animal. Masks were often used in temple ceremonies when a god was impersonated, and ceremonial staffs were part of their equipment. So, also, were the throwing boards, or *atl-atls*, with which a warrior flung a javelin, the lengthen-

*way-wa'yth. †te-po-na'z-tli.